

Brushing for Brighter Smiles Oral Health Project



2015

A Project of the
Governor's Advisory Council for
Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)

*Early Childhood Oral Health
Presentations Funded by:*

*The Department of Public Health,
Division of Oral Health*

Brushing Up This Year's Presentations

Pre-school children in New Castle Kent and Sussex Counties loved listening to Herman the puppet talk to them about their teeth during early childhood oral presentations. "Dudley Visits the Dentist" is a short DVD from the American Dental Association about a dinosaur who visits the dentist for the first time.



Early Learning Centers

Sussex Consortium

45 students from 3
classes and their
teachers.

North Smyrna Elementary

50 students total.
15 four year olds,
35 three year olds
and their teachers.

Tender Loving Care

27 Students saw
the presentation
with their teachers.



Oral Health

This year's Brushing for Brighter Smiles Team added to the program.

Learning for Everyone

Children, teachers and parents benefited from this year's Brushing For Brighter Smiles program. Students openly answered questions and learned about how important tooth care is. Parents took home, were emailed and were sent home a variety of information on their child's tooth care. Teachers were given information to do follow-up with their students.

Herman the Puppet

Herman the red haired puppet is such a big hit with the children during the presentations. He asks questions and they answer him. Herman has a mouth full of primary teeth and has already lost a few.

Adaptive Tooth Brushing

Adults and children often do not think of the difficulties others face in life. We like to get them thinking about how others are uniquely different, just like they are.

Most have never seen an adaptive toothbrush or realize that someone has to use something special to brush their teeth. Children's faces were fixed on Herman the puppet, who uses a wheelchair, as he explained the need for his adaptive toothbrush and why it was necessary so he could take care of his primary teeth.



BRUSHING FOR BRIGHTER SMILES

All children went home with two new toothbrushes, floss, Toms of Maine toothpaste and a red and green holder for their first tooth that comes out or a brushing timer. Also included was information for their parents about childhood and adult tooth care.

Parents that attended the public talk went home with a folder packed full of valuable information on oral health and the care of their children's teeth. Parents also got a goodie bag with mouthwash, toothpaste and dental floss.

Teachers were given an information folder to help them when they focus on oral health care.

Children and Parents went home with goodie bags and valuable information

NEW THIS YEAR

There's Nothing To Fear Coloring and Activity Book

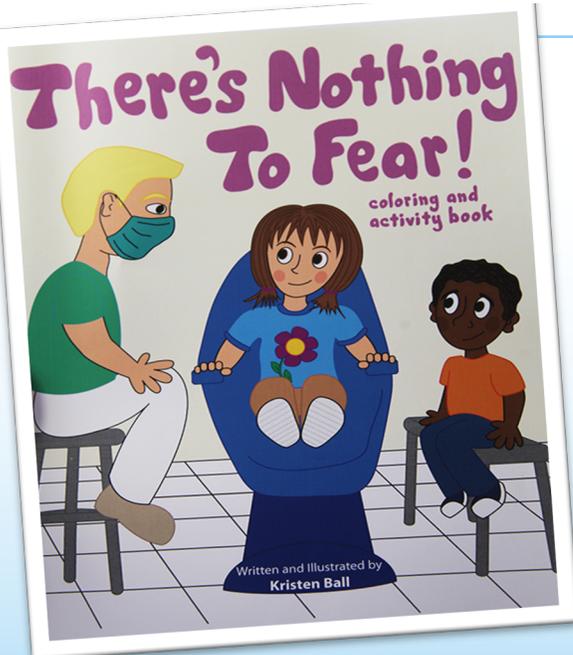
Children were delighted to go home with this new coloring book along with goodie bags after learning about the importance of brushing their teeth, watching a video, hearing about the dentist office and seeing the tools they use.

GACEC is producing an oral health training video to compliment the coloring book.

"There's Nothing to Fear," a coloring and activity book is a hit! Featuring drawings of two children going to the dentist. The pictures are well done and show the tools they will see when visiting the dentist and children enjoying the experience.

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens worked with Kristen Ball a former Polytech High School Senior who researched, designed and was the artist for this coloring book. Thanks for the support of her teacher Robert McMullen. Thanks to Mr. "RYK" Delcastle Technical High School's Graphic Arts teacher and students who did the printing.

This coloring book joins Kristen's graphic arts work on "All My Different Friends at School," a part of GACEC's Early Childhood Disability Education & Awareness Program. The early childhood program began as a direct result of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR 33), which proclaimed October as Disability Awareness Month and encourages all Delaware center and preschool programs to provide instructions related to Disability Awareness and Education.



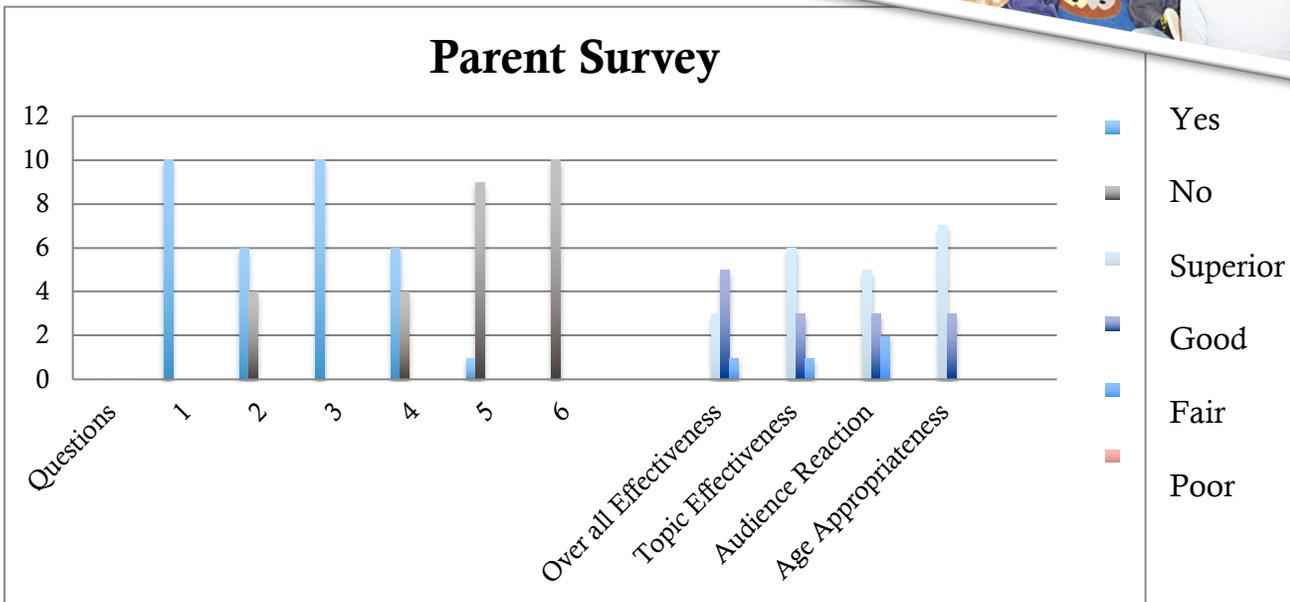
Dover Public Library

Story time Parent Chat

Children colored in “There’s Nothing to Fear,” coloring book while their parents listened to a presentation on Oral Health and the care of their children’s teeth. They all went home with goodie bags and information on tooth care.



Parent Survey



1. Do you currently watch your child (ren) brush their teeth?
2. Have they been to the dentist this year?
3. Do you discuss oral health with them?
4. Was their first dentist experience a positive one?
5. Have their teeth ever been sealed?
6. Do they take fluoride tablets?

Teacher Survey

Center	North Smyrna	TLC Newark	Sussex Constortium
Students brush at Center	NO	NO	NO
Center discusses Oral Health	YES	YES	NO
More likely to introduce brushing if outside support provided i.e brushes, toothpaste	YES	NO	NO

BRUSHING FOR BRIGHTER SMILES

Three County Coverage

Four presentations were given to young children ages 3-5 at three different early learning centers in Kent, Sussex and New Castle Counties. Lacie Spence, a dental hygienist and Robin Coventry spokesperson for Brushing for Brighter Smiles Program enjoyed working with the children, their teachers and parents.

Kent-Smyrna



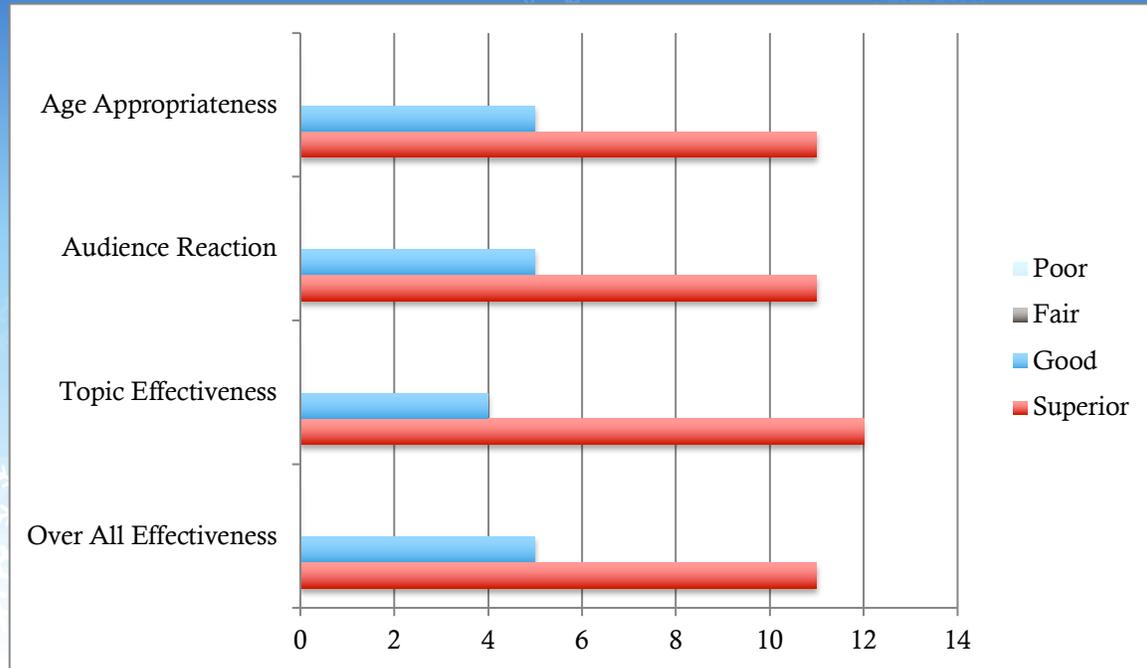
Sussex-Lewes



New Castle - Newark



Rating of program by Teachers



Comments of some teachers

North Smyrna: I loved the tooth suit. Loved Lacie's demonstration with mask, gloves and glasses. Nice visuals and questions. The video really helped since the kids are so young. Maybe come back later in the year & we can plan our theme so we can coincide with your program.

TLC Newark: I loved the costume, props and videos.

Sussex Consortium: With 13 students (in my class) the amount of time required to brush their teeth would be impractical/impossible.

Special Thanks To Tom's of Maine

Tom's of Maine donated cases of sample size toothpaste, which was perfect for the children's take home goodie bags. Each child went home with two tubes of Tom's "Wicked Cool" toothpaste.

The kindness of companies like Toms of Maine, a subsidiary of Colgate- Palmolive, make early childhood oral health programs much more enjoyable to children learning proper oral healthcare.

Thanks Tom's of Maine

